

INFORMATION REPORT

DATE DISTR. *20* Aug 1953

Harbor
Facilities/Cargo Handling Operations/Military
Activity/Merchant Vessels and Cargoes/Impressions
of Soviet People Ashore

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2. Harbor Facilities:

- (a) Docks, Warehouses and Drydocks: [redacted] the docks [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] were wooden. [redacted] the end of either the "New Mole" or
the "Military Mole" was concrete. Warehousing facilities at Odessa were poor
and inadequate. [redacted] the warehouses were extremely old and 25X1
appeared as if they would "fall down" at any time. The lack of sufficient
warehouse space repeatedly slowed offloading operations [redacted] 25X1
No drydock facilities of any kind were noted [redacted]
- (b) Construction Activity: A new four-story brick building was under construction
in the Odessa Harbor area. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] it was being constructed approximately 200
yards from the waterfront and was approximately 200 feet in length. Women
laborers were noted carrying bricks, mixing cement, and doing other heavy jobs
on this construction project. 25X1

3. Cargo Handling Operations:

- (c) Lack of Warehouse Space and Railroad Cars: The necessity for increasing 25X1
available warehouse space as well as the number of railroad cars at Odessa
seemed to be a pressing problem for harbor authorities. [redacted]
[redacted] cargo left outside in the snow exposed to the elements at several places
along the water-front. Some of the cargo, which included crates of machinery,
was covered with tarpaulins at times. [redacted]

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4. Military Activity:

- (a) Naval: [redacted] three Soviet vessels, described [redacted] as [redacted] 25X1
destroyers, were seen lying at anchor in Odessa Harbor. A single four-masted
training ship was also noted in the harbor on one occasion. This ship was loaded
with naval cadets. No submarine activity was noted at Odessa. A small armed
(at least four machine guns) speed boat was also seen in the harbor. [redacted] 25X1

- (b) Air: [redacted] a single, swept-wing, jet aircraft flying
over Odessa.

5. Merchant Vessels in the Harbor:

- (a) Foreign Shipping Noted at Odessa: A former German passenger ship was seen in
"Cabotage Harbor". This vessel was described as being of pre-World War II
vintage and approximately 25 to 30 thousand tons. [redacted]

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- (d) Prices: Prices in Odessa were reportedly extremely high. Medium priced seats at the opera were 30 rubles or about \$8.00 in US currency. A pair of shoes cost \$70.00 to \$80.00 in US money. [redacted] men with a position equal to that of a customs official would have to work ten days to earn enough money for a pair of shoes. \$75.00 was paid for a Soviet flag to fly at the foremast while in Odessa. 25X1

7. Attitude of the People:

Communist Suspicion and Fear: [redacted] when two Soviet citizens were together it was almost impossible to get either one to make any expression of opinion. The people of Odessa appeared unhappy and seemed to be afraid to talk with foreigners. 25X1

[redacted]

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